



Crystal Gayle Opens 2003 Guest Artist Series



Crystal Gayle



Rita Coolidge



The Gatlin Brothers



Andy Andrews

The 37th annual Guest Artist Series kicks off Sunday, February 2, with an appearance by country music legend, **Crystal Gayle**. On February 9, the inimitable **Rita Coolidge** will return to DAR Constitution Hall for what promises to be an unforgettable afternoon of music making. Join us on February 16 for an afternoon of great American love songs featuring **Toni Tennille**. The month's concerts round out on February 23 with a double billing featuring country music superstars, the **Gatlin Brothers** with popular comedian **Andy Andrews**. On March 2, the Band welcomes **Three Mo' Tenors**, and the season concludes on March 9 with the symphonic swing sounds of **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy**.

The concerts will take place at DAR Constitution Hall, on 18th Street between C and D Streets NW in downtown Washington. Performances begin at 3 p.m. and the doors open at 2 p.m. No tickets are required. Seats for these free performances are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so please allow plenty of time for parking and good seat selection (nearest metro station: Farragut West). Mark your calendar today! Chase away the winter blues with one of the greatest entertainment packages available to Washington audiences. And don't forget, like all the best things in life, these concerts are absolutely free. ☺

Band Takes Holiday Cheer to the Front

by Master Sergeant Joe Jackson

It was a mission that would have made Major Glenn Miller proud. This holiday season, the Airmen of Note, Barnstormers (a component of Silver Wings), Air Force String Quartet and Band Operations personnel, along with recording artists Lari White and BeBe Winans, completed an historic mission to entertain troops deployed in Europe, Southwest Asia and the Middle East supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

The concerts, which were performed in the spirit of the famous Glenn Miller Army Air Forces Band during World War II, were "the next best thing to a letter from home" and allowed the Air Force Band an oppor-

tunity to give something back to the men and women of the coalition forces who have given so much of themselves in defense of freedom.

The group traveled overseas together for the eleven-day tour. But upon arrival, the three ensembles went in separate directions in order to entertain as many troops as possible during the window of time allotted for the trip.

The Airmen of Note, featuring Rhythm and Blues recording artists Lari White and BeBe Winans, provided holiday entertainment throughout Southwest Asia. The sultry voice of Ms. White and the exultant vocals

(continued on page 5)

The United States Air Force Band, Washington, D.C.
Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker
Commander/Music Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

Let me begin by extending best wishes from all of us to you and yours for a prosperous and healthy new year. How quickly time has flown since I took command of this wonderful unit more than six months ago. To the person, our men and women have done terrific work and I'm extremely proud of their efforts and positive attitude. In light of this, I want to begin the new year with some unsolicited but sincere pats on the back.

Since our last Cadenza, the Band, alongside our 11th Wing colleagues, successfully completed the wing's first organizational readiness and unit compliance inspections. While the two inspections routinely take place at one-week intervals, our inspections occurred simultaneously—and they were tough! In true Air Force Band style, our people rallied to ensure our facilities, our readiness, our paperwork, and our compliance with directives were in stellar shape. Thank you folks, you made us proud!!! In particular, our Commander's Support Section (CSS) came under "magnifying glass" scrutiny. The inspector was so impressed with our folks that I received a personal out brief with the feedback that our shop is exemplary by the highest standards in the Air Force. These are our great Band folks! I'm still beaming from ear to ear at their success. Most importantly, I want to publicly thank my friend and colleague Major Frank Grzych, who so selflessly put on his (vastly more experienced than mine) "inspection ready" hat. He saw to it that our unit was completely ready—right down to the closets—while I was on the road having great fun conducting the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants! Frank, thank you so very much for your model leadership, your sacrifices, superb counsel and loyal friendship. You proved key to our success during these inspections, just as you do every day of the year.

Among the Band's many musical accomplishments over the past six months, I'd like to make special mention of the Airmen of Note, Barnstormers country quartet, and our String Quartet, who successfully deployed to U.S. Central Command and U.S. European Command during the busy holiday season. They did wonderful work representing "The Chief's Own" to our troops deployed overseas. I cannot overstate my gratitude to these great folks for embracing the mission so enthusiastically and with such dedication to duty. And of course, very special thanks to guest artists Lari White and BeBe Winans. These world-class entertainers selflessly donated their talents, and sacrificed time away from loved ones during this family-focused holiday season. We couldn't have asked for more and the troops loved them! Additionally, I want to thank our great support staff here at the Band, especially our operations and unit deployment team; and our bosses and colleagues throughout the 11th Wing for facilitating our growing mission to support forward deployed troops. Further, our December mission overseas was truly a total force effort. Central to our success were the efforts and commitment of our colleagues at the Central Air Force Command and the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command.

Their bosses and staffs, aircrews, aircraft, Command Band's technical and logistic support made the mission manageable. Our key advisor during both the planning and execution phases was Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Dave Ballengee. Dave, we recognize the personal sacrifices you made on your extended tour of duty

to guarantee the success of our forward operations. To you, your family and to your team at the Air Force Reserve Command I thank you so very much on behalf of the 11th Wing. What a great and total team we make!

I'm certain you've read the exciting front-page headline highlighting the 2003 Guest Artist Series at DAR Constitution Hall. I'm very excited about working with each of our stars and thank them in advance for offering their time and talents to this year's season. I also want to recognize Master Sgt. Shani Prewitt, chief of guest artist relations, for her great work behind the scenes as we move forward to bring our audiences a wonderful series, as well as the unfailing support of our long time friends at Constitution Hall.

Finally, while I'm very grateful and honored to work with our friends in the entertainment industry, I'll close by recognizing one of our own shining stars here in Hangar II. Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Stambaugh, a member of our Commander's Support Staff, recently graduated from the Noncommissioned Officers Academy at McGuire Air Force

Base, New Jersey. Not only was she a Distinguished Graduate, she was nominated for the school Commandant's Award ... then was selected as the winner of the John L. Levitow Award, the highest honor offered by Air Force enlisted professional military education. Jennifer, on behalf of your colleagues at The United States Air Force Band, I salute and most sincerely congratulate you for earning this coveted award. To those of us who have the privilege to work with you daily, this comes as no surprise.

We're very blessed to count you as a vital member of our team. Thank you for your consistent great work and professionalism as you take such marvelous care of our wonderful people.



Technical Sgt. Jennifer Stambaugh

USAF Pipers Recreate History

by Senior Master Sergeant Elizabeth Campeau

On November 17, 1962, The United States Air Force Pipe Band, a former unit of The United States Air Force Band, sounded a fanfare for the grand opening of Dulles International Airport. The new field was heralded as the nation's first jetport and the world's "gateway to Washington," and its opening marked an important moment in aviation history. So important in fact, that President John F. Kennedy was on hand to deliver the dedication. The Pipe Band, a favorite of the Kennedy family, was often called upon to perform for presidential events. Sadly, just one year later, the pipers were called to play for President Kennedy again, this time to render final honors to America's fallen commander-in-chief.

But on November 8, 2002, members of the Pipe Band (stationed at Bolling Air Force Base from 1950-1970) reunited for a much happier occasion. Making a surprise appearance at a gala celebrating Dulles Airport's fortieth anniversary, the band performed together for the first time in more than 32 years.

Marching through the ballroom at Tyson's Corner Sheraton Premiere Hotel, the men were greeted with thunderous

applause by the 560 in attendance. A dozen family members and friends stood in the wings, proudly watching this band of brothers whose passion for music has held them together for nearly a half-century.

"Sometimes, we were more like family than family," reminisced Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) John Bosworth, lead drummer until 1970, when the group was disbanded. "We lived together in the barracks on Bolling, three to a room, and we would practice and drill constantly. There's an old photo with a clock on the wall showing the time as 2:30. Well, that wasn't 2:30 in the afternoon, it was 2:30 in the morning!" All the practice and drill paid off for this elite military ensemble, which was considered one of the finest pipe bands in the world.



The band is met with thunderous applause as they make their surprise entrance during the gala celebrating the 40th anniversary of Dulles International Airport. (Howard Lansat Photography)

Logan, Gerry Quigg, Bill Semanek and Steve Young.

From all across North America they came to Washington; two days and three rehearsals later, they were gathered in the dressing room, waiting for the show to begin. Last minute tuning and rehearsing took place, and sequencing was discussed. And with the event running approximately one hour behind schedule, one member laughed and remarked, "It's still the same. Hurry up and wait!"

The highlight of the evening's performance was the traditional pipe lament, *Mist Covered Mountains*, which had been performed only once before by the group—at President Kennedy's funeral. The performance proved the band true to its reputation for impeccable intonation and style. The 15-minute show—far too short—received a standing ovation. Afterward, the men posed for group photos. One pose included Mr. Leo Schefer, president of the Washington Airports Task Force, who had been present at the airport opening forty years earlier. As he stood with the band he exclaimed, "You've made my week!" Doubtless the same can be said for the honorable servicemen surrounding him. ☺



The USAF Pipe Band wearing the official uniform, the Mitchell Tartan, chosen in honor of General "Billy" Mitchell, circa 1960. Top Row, L-R: John Bosworth, Steve Young, Bill Semanek, John McNaughton, Don Lindsey, Tim Neary, Jerry Early. Bottom Row, L-R: Sandy Jones, Ernie Ruckert, Jerry Quigg, K.C. Jones. (USAF Band Photo)

The idea to reunite the band for the anniversary celebration came about last February, when the pipers came together for a recording session at the United States Air Force Band of the Reserve, Robbins AFB, Georgia. The roster for the historic reunion included John Bosworth, Gerry Cashion, Benny Curtis, Bob Gunner, Sandy Jones, Tom Kilpatrick, Don Lindsey, Bill

The United States Air Force Band is wholeheartedly committed to reflecting the diversity of our great nation. We actively encourage individuals from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds to learn about and seek positions in our organization.

Ensemble News

Happy New Year! We hope this issue of Cadenza finds you healthy, happy and ready for the challenges and rewards of the coming months. Here's the latest from our eight performing groups:

With the busy holiday season behind them, the **Air Force Strings** are beginning preparations for the rapidly approaching Guest Artist Series, and the Strolling Strings are ringing in the new year with a new look! Master Sgt. Marek Vastek joins the ensemble, filling the void left by recently retired Chief Master Sgt. William Popp. An award-winning pianist, Sgt. Vastek has won several competitions over the course of his career, including the prestigious Beethoven Competition in Vienna, Austria; Chopin Competition in New York City; and Vietti Competition in Vercelli, Italy. He will be a welcome addition to the ensemble. Senior Master Sgt. Jane Bockenek has recently been named the Strings' manager. Sgt. Bockenek is no stranger to leadership; as strolling director, she plays lead violin and is responsible for the group's repertoire, sound and appearance. Under her leadership, the ensemble will surely soar to even greater heights. The new year also brings the task of selecting a new concertmaster; Master Sgt. Dustin Saam will retire in January. Originally from Pontiac,



Master Sgt. Dustin Saam

Michigan, Sgt. Saam attended the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts, where he studied violin pedagogy and performance. Prior to joining the Strings, he performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Phoenix

Symphony Orchestra, and the Delaware Symphony. In addition to his musical skills, Sgt. Saam is a well-respected stringed instrument maker and restorer. Upon retirement, he plans to open a violin shop. The Strings wish him great success in his post-Air Force career.

The **Airmen of Note** began the month of November deliberating over the

entries for the 2003 Sammy Nestico Award, an annual competition for 18-piece big band arrangements and compositions. Under the stewardship of award custodian Master Sgt. Alan Baylock, the Note convenes as a group to adjudicate the entries, and then presents the finalists to Sammy Nestico (former Note leader) who selects the winner. Stay tuned for the announcement of this year's winner! Fall Tour 2002 in California, Arizona and Nevada was a roaring success, beginning with a concert featuring legendary trombonist Bill Watrous. Starting his set with a beautifully idyllic treatment of Billy Strayhorn's *Lush Life*, Watrous proceeded to amaze audience members with standby arrangements of *Spain* and *Zip City*. The Note also performed a Veteran's Day salute in Los Angeles that won them front-page coverage in the calendar section of the Los Angeles Times. A new facet to the Note's tour itinerary was the addition of matinee performances in area high schools to support the Band's Equal Opportunity Outreach program. The students in attendance were among the first to receive the Band's new CD, *Imagine the Possibilities*, a recording designed to inspire young people to choose a career in Air Force music. During the tour, the band had the tremendous pleasure to see many Note alumni including Mike Crotty, Bruce Gates, Don Grossi, Tony Osiecki, Houghton Peterson, Gary Scott, Ken Smukal, Cliff Stark and Larry Tain. Our profound thanks go to these former members who made it out to the shows.

Congratulations to the newest chief in the **Ceremonial Brass**, Chief Master Sgt. Ed Teleky. Chief Teleky was promoted on December 1. He joined the Brass as a percussionist in 1987 after completing his bachelors and masters degrees at The Juilliard School in New York City, and is currently the Band's drum major. The Brass recently welcomed two new trumpet players to its ranks, Technical Sgts. Jeff Castle and Pat McDermott. Sgt. Castle



Chief Master Sgt. Ed Teleky

comes to us with a wealth of Air Force experience from the Band of the West, Lackland AFB, Texas, and Sgt. McDermott is from the civilian sector, where he just completed his masters degree at Carnegie Mellon University. We also welcome back Master Sgt. Tara Islas, who spent six weeks as class commander at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy at McGuire AFB, New Jersey.

The Brass is growing! In the coming months, auditions will be held for all instruments. The increased numbers will allow the Brass to better serve the ever-increasing Air Force requirements to support funerals and protocol functions. With such a large number of openings to fill, we need your help to get the word out and encourage qualified musicians to apply.

The **Concert Band** had a busy holiday season. The Holiday Concert series was a huge success. Adding to the excitement, the Friday, December 6 performance was broadcast live on WETA 90.9 FM, with guest emcee, Marilyn Cooley. The Band also performed for the national broadcast of the Pageant of Peace, which featured guest artists Roy Clark, Lee Ann Womack, Hei-Kyung Hook,

Barbara Eden and Three Mo' Tenors. Additionally, the brass and woodwind quintets stayed busy playing for holiday parties and other Department of

Defense functions and the newly formed clarinet choir made its debut as part of the Chamber Players Series. In November, the trombone section hosted David Finlayson, second trombonist with the New York Philharmonic, who led two master classes. During the

sessions, he stressed the importance of working together and addressed numerous issues fundamental to section playing such as balance, blend,



Country music artist
Master Sgt.

and rhythmic accuracy. In the coming months, the Band will prepare for its January recording session, the Guest Artist Series and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) convention in New York City.

The **Diplomats** spent the holiday season entertaining audiences in 12 performances throughout the National Capital Region. Pianist Master Sgt. Steve Erickson, and vocalists, Senior Master Sgt. Bobbie McCleary and Master Sgt. Tracey Wright, joined them for several of the dates. Highlights included an appearance at the Corcoran Art Gallery in downtown Washington, D.C., and a special education outreach performance as part of the "Air Force Band @ Your Library" series. Their new holiday CD, *Do You Hear What I Hear?*, was released mid-December to rave reviews.



ist Lee Ann Womack takes a minute to discuss music with pianist, Sgt. Steve Erickson. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Stambaugh)

High Flight announces its newest member! Vocalist Tech. Sgt. Regina Coonrad has joined the front line of the group. Regina is a native of Sparta, Tennessee, and comes to us from the Air Force Security Forces career field. She was previously stationed at Andrews AFB, Maryland, where she was involved in presidential support, including security for Air Force One. Sgt. Coonrad studied music at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee, and in 2001 was a

cast member in "Tops in Blue," the Premier Entertainment Showcase of the Air Force. We look forward to sharing her talents with you; we just know you're going to love her! Tech. Sgt. Ryan Carson is on his way to the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and Senior Master Sgt. Randy Jennings is currently attending the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy. Each has embraced this career-broadening opportunity, and though we know they're having a wonderful time, we eagerly look forward to their return.

The Barnstormers component of **Silver Wings** performed for the Air Force, Army and Navy Catholic Bishops Appreciation Dinner hosted by Chaplain Major General Lorraine K. Potter, the Air Force Chief of Chaplains. The dinner served as thanks to bishops and archbishops from the various dioceses throughout the United States for their support for Catholic priests serving as chaplains in the Air Force. Chief Queen selected a special program for the event, including Jay Unger's *Ashokan Farewell*, *Accentuate the Positive*, and the Stephen Foster song, *Hard Times*.

The **Singing Sergeants** welcomes its newest member, bass-baritone, Tech. Sgt. Chris Harris. A native of Poquoson, Virginia, Sgt. Harris is the son of Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) Charles Harris, who served as the manager of the Heritage of America Band at Langley AFB, Virginia. "All those years I took him to my concerts, now he's taking me to his," remarked the proud father, who attended the Band's holiday concert at the Landmark Theater in Richmond, Virginia. The chorus traveled to New York City on December 23 to perform with popular singer Darlene Love on the *Late Show with David Letterman*. This marks the second appearance for the Singers on *Letterman*,



Technical Sgt. Regina Coonrad

and the performance was part of his annual salute to the military. Tune in to the *Tostitos Fiesta Bowl* on January 3 and hear the Singers perform the National Anthem for this national championship football game. In February, the Singers will travel again to New York to perform at the National ACDA convention on February 14-16. Master Sgts. Brian Davis and Tracey Wright will be on hand to answer questions about military careers in music at the Band's convention booth. ☺

("Holiday Cheer" continued from page 1)

by Mr. Winans brought roars of jubilation and tears of joy to the hundreds of troops for whom we were honored to perform. Look for more photos of our tour in the March issue of *Cadenza*.

The String Quartet joined with the United States Air Forces in Europe Band, at Sembach Air Base, Germany, and provided enhanced capability for the band during its busiest time of the year.

The Barnstormers, a component of Silver Wings, provided the "light and lean" aspect of our task force, and traveled to our troops stationed in far-forward locations. For these hardworking men and women—deployed for long periods in austere conditions far from family and friends—appearances by our Barnstormers served to boost morale and bring a little bit of holiday joy to the front lines. ☺



Tech. Sgt. Doug Morgan and Chief Master Sgt. C. E. Askew depart Bolling AFB for the desert.

JANUARY

9 "AIR FORCE BAND @ YOUR LIBRARY" SERIES, 4 p.m., featuring the United States Air Force String Quartet, Tenley-Friendship Library Children's Room, 4450 Wisconsin Avenue NW at Albemarle Street, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro Station: Tenleytown-AU

11 Saxophone Quartet, 11 a.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, Braddock Road and Route 123, Fairfax, Virginia.

19 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 1:30 p.m., "An Afternoon of Music for Brass Quintet," White House Visitors Center, 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.

26 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 1:30 p.m., "An Afternoon of Music for String Quartet," White House Visitors Center, 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.

All performances are free and open to the public. Performance times and locations are subject to change. For up-to-date information, please visit our website at www.bolling.af.mil/band. For detailed information about performances in the Washington, D.C., area, please call the Concert Line, (202) 767-5658.

Cadenza

Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker ~ Commander/Music Director
Chief Master Sergeant David Nokes ~ Director of Public Affairs
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Bolling AFB Visual Information Support Center ~ Photography

The United States Air Force Band
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PERSONNEL MATTERS

Arrivals

Technical Sergeant Rochelle Oddo, clarinet

Departures

Chief Master Sergeant William Popp, accordion
Master Sergeant Jan Siegfried, clarinet
Technical Sergeant Jennifer Marksteiner, soprano

FEBRUARY

2 GUEST ARTIST SERIES, 3 p.m., featuring country music legend **Crystal Gayle**, DAR Constitution Hall, 18th & D Streets NW, Washington, D.C.

6 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., John Addison Concert Hall, Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.

7 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., College of Southern Maryland, 8730 Mitchell Road, La Plata, Maryland.

9 GUEST ARTIST SERIES, 3 p.m., featuring the inimitable **Rita Coolidge**, DAR Constitution Hall, 18th & D Streets NW, Washington, D.C.

14 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.

15 Singing Sergeants, 8:30 p.m., American Choral Directors Association National Convention, Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.

16 GUEST ARTIST SERIES, 3 p.m., featuring **Toni Tennille**, DAR Constitution Hall, 18th & D Streets NW, Washington, D.C.

20 "AIR FORCE BAND @ YOUR LIBRARY" SERIES, 4 p.m., featuring the United States Air Force Brass Quintet, Lamond Riggs Library Children's Room, 5401 South Dakota Avenue NE at Kennedy Street, Washington, D.C. Nearest Metro

21 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, Virginia.

21 The Airmen of Note, 7:30 p.m., Maryland Music Educators Association Conference, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

23 GUEST ARTIST SERIES, 3 p.m., featuring country music superstars the **Gatlin Brothers** with popular comedian **Andy Andrews**, DAR Constitution Hall, 18th & D Streets NW, Washington, D.C.

27 CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES, 8 p.m., John Addison Concert Hall, Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland.

Are you moving?

If so, let us know. One of our big challenges is to keep our database current. You can help us! We will make sure your address is updated in our system, so Cadenza can follow you to your new home.

Drop a line to: The USAF Band/BAP, 201 McChord Street, Bolling AFB, DC 20032-0202

You may also send e-mail to: Kyneth.Sutton@bolling.af.mil

Alumni News

By Chief Master Sergeant (Ret.) Harry Gleeson

Multitasking was the catchword of the late 90s, but for Lewis Anderson it was his musical life. In the early 1950s, the young Warrant Officer (now 78 years old) was both the Assistant Director of the United States Air Force Symphonic Band and the main conductor for the USAF Bandsman School.

Not only was he one of the busiest young conductors in America at that time, his path to membership in the Air Force was unusual to say the least. Drafted for service in 1942, he passed the physical, but his local draft board in Boardman, Ohio, sent a letter to the state board in Columbus stating that Lew was “a musician” and therefore prone to “tension and anxiety.”

Thus rejected for the draft, he returned to Berea, Ohio, to finish his studies at the Baldwin Wallace College Conservatory of Music. There, he played in the campus Navy reserve band! In fact, he volunteered three additional times for the Army, always passing the physical, but the “musician” title stayed on his record, and he was continually rejected because of his local draft board’s prejudice.

After graduating from Baldwin Wallace, he attended Columbia University in New York where he earned two masters degrees concurrently. He returned to his hometown and began teaching when the chairman of the draft board “called me and said “Anderson, you’ll be happy to be informed the next call up you’re on the list.” And I said, “I’m sorry, you had four chances, now I have three degrees and a career in front of me,” so I joined the National Guard where I directed a small band.”

“Then Harry Truman alerted the Guard to go to Korea from here (Ohio). I remembered an article by Colonel George Howard on the advantages of music in the Air Force, so I arranged for an appointment.” The interview went well, and the late Col. (Ret.) George Howard hired Lew on the spot. In a hand written memo to his staff, Col. Howard stated, “Interview with Mr. Anderson 14 August [1950]. Good personality. Should make a fine W.O. [Warrant Officer] after proper military training. Recommended he enlist here and be assigned to school for teaching and further training.”

But even Lew’s enlistment process was exceptional to say the least. He arrived at Bolling “as a civilian in August of 1950” because Col. Howard wanted him to begin working at the Bandsmen School immediately. But clearing his paperwork with the National Guard took time. Howard, however, insisted that “Andy” as he had nicknamed him, begin immediately, “so I was conducting in a T-shirt and directing everything [at the school] until I was finally able to be sworn in two months later.” During that time, while still a civilian, “Col. Howard gave me a pass to go to the mess hall to get food, and I stayed in the band barracks.”

Even his “basic training” was unusual. In those days, virtually all Air Force bases conducted basic training. When Lew finally joined, he entered as an Airman First Class (A1C). “They found out later that I had to take basic. But Col. Howard said ‘Well, he can’t be there with that basic group all



USAF Band Assistant Conductor Warrant Officer Lewis Anderson (USAF Band Photo)

day long because he’s working for us.’ So I showed up in the morning for an hour and a half and then I came back to the Band School.”

By the time he received his Warrant Commission in 1951, Lew Anderson was the chief instructor and conductor at the Air Force Bandsmen School. But his career didn’t stop there, because in October of 1953, on paper at least, he was “relieved from duty as instructor, USAF Bandsman School and assigned duty as

Assistant Conductor, The USAF Band.”

As assistant conductor of the Symphonic Band, Lew prepared all of the concert material, conducted several of the radio and television broadcasts and numerous area concerts. And in March of 1954, he took the Band on an eight day southern tour because Col. Howard had been confined to quarters with pneumonia – one of the few times in his career that George Howard ever missed concerts.

However, serving as assistant conductor of the Symphonic Band was really an additional duty, because he continued to conduct the Bandsman School ceremonial and concert bands. “I wouldn’t say I was burned out, but it ended up that I was running the band school [academics], conducting the band there, interviewing and auditioning civilians and potential warrant officers, rehearsing the Symphonic Band, the Ceremonial Band, you name it. Some days I was conducting like six hours.”

So he resigned his commission in August of 1954 and went to the University of Michigan to work on his doctorate with William Revelli. After a year and a half there he left to accept the position of director of bands at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

A unique position opened up in his home area in 1958, and he returned to Youngstown, Ohio, as director of bands at Rayen School. Originally a private institution, it eventually evolved into a prestigious public high school, from which he retired in 1979.

But playing was still in this trumpeter’s blood, and to this very day – at age 78 – he plays between three and five dance gigs every week. That playing has kept him in exceptional physical condition because, “I have to practice every day or I’ll lose my chops.” On a dance job he plays four horns, “regular trumpet, pocket trumpet, flugel horn and baritone horn.”

He and his wife Irene – they met and married while he was in D.C. – now divide their time between their condo in Poland, Ohio, and (since 1988) their winter condo in Ft. Myers Beach, Florida, where he also plays with various jazz combos and a big band. ☺



"America's Band"

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Washington, D.C.

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